



February 19, 2013

As a member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Connecticut and a Commissioner of the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women, it concerns me greatly that the State of Connecticut would consider consolidating such an active, effective and critical commission with other commissions and potentially dilute PCSW's and the state of Connecticut's ability to identify, address and research the issues of Connecticut women.

Without the commission, women would have faced a lack of important services during the Waterbury/St Mary's hospital merger; without this commission, the women of Connecticut lose a major resource protecting them from pay gaps, gender discrimination, and financial security. The cost of these losses to Connecticut would be much higher than the less than 1% of the state budget the commission currently is allotted.

PCSW works with state lawmakers to ensure women of Connecticut can live independently and safely; the ultimate long term result will be reductions in entitlement expenses for the state.

Merging PCSW with the other commissions would be a short term fix for a budget problem; please do not consider this the solution to a budget issue; allow PCSW to continue to research the needs of women in the state and continue to act as the public policy arm for the General Assembly.

JoAnn Calnen
Commissioner, PCSW
President, General Federation of Women's Clubs of CT, 2010-2012